



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **It's Official!**

# **MONROE HAS GEORGIA'S "SMOOTHEST" RIDE**

**ATLANTA, GA.** – Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurry proudly announces the construction of State Route 138/Charlotte Rowell Blvd from SR 10/US 78 to SR 11 at Double Springs Church Road earned the 2015 Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality Award for the Smoothest Roadway Statewide.

"Of the 1,500 road construction projects underway across Georgia, the extension of State Route 138/Charlotte Rowell Boulevard in Monroe earned the "smoothness" award for Asphaltic Concrete Open Graded Mixture in the State. Smoothness is a roadway characteristic measured by a laser mounted on the front of a vehicle. Smoothness is extremely important because the smoothness denotes a level and compact substructure that will last and offers the motorist a smooth ride, with no bumps, or cracks. A high smoothness rating means the road will last longer with less maintenance giving motorists a better ride without the cost and inconvenience of maintenance," explained Brent Cook, District Engineer.

Blake Jennings, Georgia DOT Construction Inspector, worked diligently with Pittman Construction Company, the project's contractor, to ensure the project was completed to the highest possible standards. Building this 1.55 mile long extension of SR 138 known as Charlotte Rowell Blvd was completed at a cost of \$4.1 million. The project opened for use 3 months ahead of the November 2014 completion date.

Four statewide Construction Awards are given annually by Georgia DOT. Pittman Construction Company won 2 of this year's awards.

Blake Jennings began his career with Georgia DOT in 2005 as an Engineering Technician. He worked his way up in the Construction Division and is now a Construction Inspector 2 from Jefferson. He is currently overseeing construction of the new College Station Road over the North Oconee River in Athens. Blake is a second generation GDOT employee. His Father, Tim Jennings retired from the Department in 2009.

*Independent analysis consistently ranks Georgia's transportation system as being in the best condition of any in the United States, despite the fact that we lag near the bottom of all states in per capita investment in transportation infrastructure. But our highways and bridges are carrying more vehicles than ever; they are aging; and they are becoming more expensive to maintain. More than \$500 million is needed for basic bridge maintenance over the next decade and \$1.5 billion for routine road repairs over just the next five years. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#).*

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*Left to right: Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry, Construction Project Inspector Blake Jennings and State Construction Engineer Jeff Baker.*



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